Prompt 1: “In gaining knowledge, each area of knowledge uses a network of ways of knowing.” Discuss this statement with reference to two areas of Knowledge.

**STEP 1: Command Term**

*DISCUSS*: offer a considered and balanced review that includes a range of arguments, factors or hypotheses. Opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence

**STEP 2: Key Phrases**

*“In gaining knowledge”*: This phrase suggests the basic assumption to begin the essay.

*“network of ways of knowing”*: This phrase helps students to design a relationship between two or more ways of knowing, which will help us to understand how those WOKs play roles when acquiring knowledge in a certain AOK.

**STEP 3+4: Areas of Knowledge + Ways of Knowing**

*Mathematics*:

* 1. When considering mathematics, one might come across this question: do we use **reason** or **imagination** when we acquire knowledge in mathematics?
  2. These two viewpoints contradict from each other, due to the nature of the two ways of knowing. Imagination suggests that mathematical knowledge comes from our development of a new idea not present to our senses. This also supports that math is invented, instead of discovered.
  3. Reason suggests something contrasts imagination; it supports that math is discovered. The support that mathematical knowledge gets acquired with reason claims that there is an explanation, cause, or justification for a knowledge that pre-exists.
  4. Though, it is difficult to state that only one of those two ways of knowing exist when acquiring knowledge in mathematical sector. This is where the “network of ways of knowing” comes in; therefore, the student will have to develop a thoughtful relationship between the two ways of knowing, and how they incorporate with each other.

*Ethics*:

1. It is difficult to come up with any universal ethical standard in our world due to its relative nature. This relative nature of ethics comes from two different sectors: **emotion** and **reason**.
2. When acquiring knowledge, emotion, a way of knowing relates to ethics in numerous ways. When people judge upon other people’s behaviors, the ethical standard seem to be higher than usual. However, when judging oneself or someone close to one, people are inclined to judge them with less strict standards. This is when emotion takes a role in ethics.
3. Also, reason can be another way of knowing that affects us when we acquire ethical knowledge. Humans understand their tendency to be emotional, thus they often try to be reasonable and fair while judging others. This is when reason comes into ethics.
4. Though, the degree of being emotional and reasonable might vary from a person to another person. This is because the network of emotion and reason differs from each other due to our sense perception. Our **sense perception**, created through experiences affect and shape our network of emotion and reason that we use to acquire ethical knowledge.

**STEP 5: Knowledge Issues**

There are certain knowledge issues that come into our mind while considering following knowledge question. One of them will be answered in depth in my breakdown.

Mathematics- invented or discovered?

* 1. One might say that math is purely discovered due to its natural science-like characteristics. Just like how laws of physics will still exist without the presence of human, laws and rules of mathematics will exist in the world. The Pythagorean theorem will still make sense without us; thus, math is discovered.
  2. Though, one can suggest that humans purely invent few concepts in math. Just because x2 = -1 will not make sense, humans made up an imaginary concept called *i*. This suggests how math is at least partially invented.
  3. Another perspective might deal with “labels” in mathematics. One may argue that math is purely invented because no one would come up with the concept of “mathematics” if humans didn’t put label on them, therefore math would not exist without humans. However, some might claim that the concept of “label” supports the argument that math is discovered.
  4. Lastly, math can be a type of language, since we can apply meanings and communicate with others using math, even though the extent is limited. Language is not something that can be discovered or exist before humans. Therefore, this claim supports how math is invented by humans.

*How do emotion and reason take different role in ethics?*

*How are mathematics and ethics similar? Are they?*

**STEP 6: Assumptions**

There are few underlying assumptions in this knowledge question. One is that ways of knowing can form a network and incorporate with each other. Another assumption is that knowledge is a justified belief.